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**REMARKS**

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 16, 2008. Claims 1-10 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, and new claims 11 and 12 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-12 are pending upon entry of this amendment, with claims 1-4 being in independent form.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Zadeh (US 2002/0130646 A1). Claims 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Zadeh in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,333,623 to Heisley et al.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is allowable over the cited art, for at least the reason that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the aspects of the present application of a voltage-generating circuit for generating a *first voltage  $V_o$*  proportional to a second voltage between an input end and an output end of a switching element, *said first voltage  $V_o$  being different from said output voltage  $V_{out}$  output from said output terminal of said power supply apparatus.*

Zadeh, as understood by applicant, proposes a linear voltage regulator, and more specifically a low-dropout regulator (LDO), which provides a substantially constant output voltage independent of loading conditions. The LDO is biased at a relatively low operating current for steady-state operation to improve power efficiency of the LDO. During a loading condition change, an adaptive biasing circuit senses the loading condition change and provides additional biasing current to momentarily increase the operating current of the LDO to improve transient response.

In Zadeh, output voltage,  $V_{OUT}$  is output from an output terminal of the apparatus and is clear in figure 1.

However, there is no voltage in Zadeh that equates to the first voltage  $V_o$  of the present

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application.

Zadeh simply does not disclose or suggest a voltage-generating circuit for generating a *first voltage  $V_o$*  proportional to a voltage between an input end and an output end of said switching element, *said first voltage  $V_o$  being different from said output voltage  $V_{out}$  output from said output terminal of said power supply apparatus.*

In addition, Zadeh does not disclose or suggest a control circuit for controlling an operation of said switching element *depending on said first voltage  $V_o$*  of the voltage-generating circuit, wherein the control circuit causes the switching element to reduce an output current when *said first voltage  $V_o$*  of the voltage-generating circuit exceeds a predetermined reference voltage  $V_s$ .

Likewise, Heisley, as understood by Applicant, does not disclose or suggest the above-mentioned aspects of the present application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art, even when considered along with common sense or common knowledge to one skilled in the art, does not render unpatentable the above-mentioned aspects of the present application of a voltage-generating circuit for generating a *first voltage  $V_o$*  proportional to a second voltage between an input end and an output end of a switching element, *said first voltage  $V_o$  being different from said output voltage  $V_{out}$  output from said output terminal of said power supply apparatus..*

Accordingly, applicant submits that independent claims 1-4, and the claims depending therefrom, are allowable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper

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should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837  
Attorney for Applicant  
Cooper & Dunham LLP  
Tel.: (212) 278-0400

PT/RJM